

JUDGE FRANK MONTALVO

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION**

FILED

2023-07-26 PM 12:35

CLEAK, US DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BY ~~REPUTED~~

CRYSTAL MALDONADO.

Plaintiff,

V.

DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER, LLC an Ohio Limited Liability Company and **LINVILLE LAW GROUP, LLC** a Georgia Limited Liability Company, **INTAKE DIRECT LLC**, a Georgia Limited Liability Company and **GUARDIAN LEGAL GROUP LLC** a/k/a **GUARDIAN LEGAL NETWORK**

Defendants.

EP22CV0343

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

PARTIES

1. The Plaintiff is CRYSTAL MALDONADO (“Plaintiff”) a natural person, resident of the Western District of Texas, and was present in Texas for all automated text messages, in this case in El Paso County, Texas.
 2. Defendant INTAKE DIRECT LLC (“Intake”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Georgia with a principal address of 317 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah, Georgia 31406, and can be served via registered agent Benjamin Perkins, 218 W State Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.
 3. Defendant GUARDIAN LEGAL GROUP LLC a/k/a GUARDIAN LEGAL NETWORK (“Guardian”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Georgia

with a principal address of 317 Eisenhower Drive, Savannah, Georgia 31406 and can be served via registered agent Benjamin Perkins, 218 W. State Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401.

4. Defendant DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER, LLC (“DICELLO”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Ohio and can be served via registered agent Joseph Silvaggio at 6450 Rockside Woods Blvd. South #230, Independence, Ohio 44131.

5. Defendant LINVILLE LAW GROUP, LLC (“Linville”) is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Georgia and can be served via registered agent Hunter Linville at 5560 Lake Island Dr. Atlanta, Georgia 30327.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. Jurisdiction. This Court has federal-question subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s TCPA claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because the TCPA is a federal statute. *Mims v. Arrow Fin. Servs., LLC*, 565 U.S. 368, 372 (2012). This Court has supplemental subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s claim arising under Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053 because that claim arises from the same nucleus of operative fact, i.e., Defendants’ telemarketing robocalls to Plaintiff; adds little complexity to the case.

7. Personal Jurisdiction. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over the defendant because they have repeatedly placed calls and automated text messages to Texas residents, derive revenue from Texas businesses, provide legal services to Texas residents, and solicited Plaintiff their legal services in this District.

8. Venue. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1)-(2) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claims—the calls and sale of goods and services directed at Texas residents, including the Plaintiff—occurred in this District and because the Plaintiff resides in this District. Residing in the Western District of Texas when he received a

substantial if not every single automated text message from Defendants that are the subject matter of this lawsuit.

9. This Court has venue over the defendants because the automated text messages at issue were sent by or on behalf of the above-named Defendants to the Plaintiff, a Texas resident.

**THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT
OF 1991, 47 U.S.C. § 227**

10. In 1991, Congress enacted the TCPA to restrict the use of sophisticated telemarketing equipment that could target millions of consumers *en masse*. Congress found that these calls were not only a nuisance and an invasion of privacy to consumers specifically but were also a threat to interstate commerce generally. *See S. Rep. No. 102-178*, at 2-3 (1991), as reprinted in 1991 U.S.C.C.A.N. 1968, 1969-71.

11. The TCPA makes it unlawful “to make any call (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) using an automatic telephone dialing system (‘ATDS’) or an artificial or prerecorded voice … to any telephone number assigned to a … cellular telephone service.” 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii).

12. The TCPA makes it unlawful “to initiate any telephone call to any residential telephone line using an artificial or prerecorded voice to deliver a message without the prior express consent of the called party, unless the call is initiated for emergency purposes, is made solely pursuant to the collection of a debt owed to or guaranteed by the United States or is exempted by rule or order” of the Federal Communication Commission (“FCC”). 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(B).

13. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of § 227(b). 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3).

14. Separately, the TCPA bans telemarketing calls without a do-not-call policy available

upon demand. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c); 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(1).¹

15. The TCPA provides a private cause of action to persons who receive calls in violation of § 227(c) or a regulation promulgated thereunder. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

16. According to findings of the FCC, the agency vested by Congress with authority to issue regulations implementing the TCPA, automated or prerecorded telephone calls are a greater nuisance and invasion of privacy than live solicitation calls and can be costly and inconvenient.

17. The FCC also recognizes that “wireless customers are charged for incoming calls whether they pay in advance or after the minutes are used.” *In re Rules and Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, 18 FCC Rcd. 14014, 14115 ¶ 165 (2003).

18. The FCC requires “prior express written consent” for all autodialed or prerecorded telemarketing robocalls to wireless numbers and residential lines. In particular:[A] consumer’s written consent to receive telemarketing robocalls must be signed and be sufficient to show that the consumer: (1) received clear and conspicuous disclosure of the consequences of providing the requested consent, *i.e.*, that the consumer will receive future calls that deliver prerecorded messages by or on behalf of a specific seller; and (2) having received this information, agrees unambiguously to receive such calls at a telephone number the consumer designates. In addition, the written agreement must be obtained without requiring, directly or indirectly, that the agreement be executed as a condition of purchasing any good or service.

19. *In the Matter of Rules & Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, 27 FCC Rcd. 1830, 1844 ¶ 33 (2012) (footnote and internal quotation marks omitted). FCC regulations “generally establish that the party on whose behalf a solicitation is made bears

¹ See Code of Federal Regulations, Title 47, Parts 40 to 60, at 425 (2017) (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).

ultimate responsibility for any violations.” *In the Matter of Rules and Regulations Implementing the Tel. Consumer Prot. Act of 1991*, 10 FCC Rcd. 12391, 12397 ¶ 13 (1995).

20. The FCC confirmed this principle in 2013, when it explained that “a seller … may be held vicariously liable under federal common law principles of agency for violations of either section 227(b) or section 227(c) that are committed by third-party telemarketers.” *In the Matter of the Joint Petition Filed by Dish Network, LLC*, 28 FCC Rcd. 6574, 6574 ¶ 1 (2013).

21. Under the TCPA, a text message is a call. *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster, Inc.*, 569 F.3d 946, 951 – 52 (9th Cir. 2009).

22. A corporate officer involved in the telemarketing at issue may be personally liable under the TCPA. *E.g., Jackson Five Star Catering, Inc. v. Beason*, Case No. 10-10010, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 159985, at *10 (E.D. Mich. Nov. 8, 2013) (“[M]any courts have held that corporate actors can be individually liable for violating the TCPA where they had direct, personal participation in or personally authorized the conduct found to have violated the statute.” (internal quotation marks omitted)); *Maryland v. Universal Elections*, 787 F. Supp. 2d 408, 415 – 16 (D. Md. 2011) (“If an individual acting on behalf of a corporation could avoid individual liability, the TCPA would lose much of its force.”).

OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT MESSAGING MARKETING INDUSTRY

23. In recent years, marketers who often have felt stymied by federal laws limiting solicitation by telephone, facsimile machine, and email have increasingly looked to alternative technologies through which to send bulk solicitations cheaply.

24. One of the newest types of such marketing is to advertise through Short Message Services. The term “Short Message Service” or “SMS” describes a messaging system that allows cellular telephone subscribers to use their cellular telephones to send and receive short text

messages, usually limited to 120-500 characters.

25. An “SMS message” is a text directed to a wireless device. When an SMS message call is successfully made, the recipient’s cell phone rings, alerting him or her that a call is being received.

26. The open rate for SMS messages exceeds 99%, and 90% of those messages are read within three minutes. Conversely, the open rate for an email in the finance industry is 21.56%.

27. Unlike more conventional advertisements, SMS calls, and particularly wireless or mobile spam can actually cost their recipients money, because cell phone users must frequently pay their respective wireless service providers either for each text message or call they receive or incur a usage allocation deduction to their text plan, regardless of whether or not the message is authorized.

28. Most commercial SMS messages are sent from “short codes” (also known as “short numbers”), which are special cellular telephone exchanges, typically only five or six-digit extensions, that can be used to address SMS messages to mobile phones. Short codes are generally easier to remember and are utilized by consumers to subscribe to such services as television program voting or more benevolent uses, such as making charitable donations.

29. A short code is sent to consumers along with the actual text message and conclusively reveals the originator of the SMS message.

30. Text messages are “calls” within the context of the TCPA. *Satterfield v. Simon & Schuster, Inc.*, 569 F.3d 949 (9th Cir. 2009).

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

31. At all times Plaintiff’s number was successfully registered on the Do-Not Call Registry.

32. Plaintiff received at least thirty-one (31) unauthorized automated text messages (“the text messages”) to her personal cell phone ending in 6342 in from August 17, 2022, to September 20, 2022, from Defendants soliciting their goods and services. *See “Exhibit A.”*

33. Defendant Intake is a company that operates as a website and call center with a specific mission of helping consumers find an attorney. Intake’s website states “Intake Direct helps to connect plaintiffs with qualified attorneys nationwide. If you know someone, or if you yourself have been injured by a dangerous drug, defective medical device, or defective product, we can help you find a legal team that is ready to help.”

34. Defendant Intake and Defendant Guardian share the same physical principal location and through information and belief share common ownership.

35. Through information and belief Defendant Intake and Defendant Guardian has partnered with and/or authorized Defendant Guardian to solicit potential clients on its behalf.

36. Defendant Guardian is an advertising group that represents lawyers jointly advertising their services. Defendant Guardian’s website states “We leverage the power of television, digital media, and other forms of advertising to inform the public of potentially dangerous prescription drugs, defective medical devices, and product liability... Victims can take a proactive approach by learning more about their case and contacting a knowledgeable attorney with our assistance.”

37. Defendants Dicello and Linville are law firms that hired and contracted with Defendant Guardian and Defendant Intake to solicit clients on their behalf. Defendants Dicello and Linville knew, or should have known, that Defendant Guardian and Defendant Intake would be making solicitation using automated text messages on their behalf. Defendant Dicello and Defendant Linville have contracted with Defendant Guardian and Defendant Intake as an end around the solicitation prohibition for attorneys.

38. Defendants Dicello and Linville market and solicit potential clients via automated text messages in violation of the National Bar Association prohibition on soliciting persons with whom no prior relationship existed.

39. None of the Defendants have any prior existing business relationship with Plaintiff. Plaintiff has never been a customer or client of any of the Defendants.

40. Plaintiff did not give any of the Defendants her prior express written consent to receive the text messages.

41. The text messages Plaintiff received from Defendants were generated and sent using an ATDS.

42. Defendants Dicello and Linville are well aware of the National Bar Association, Texas State Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, and Georgia State Bar Association's prohibition of soliciting business from consumers with whom they had no preexisting relationship.

43. Defendants Dicello and Linville are repeatedly violating the National, Texas, Ohio and Georgia Bar's code of conduct for attorneys by soliciting clients with whom they had no prior relationship.

44. Defendants Dicello and Linville knowingly and willfully authorized the sending of text messages using an ATDS to millions of consumers' personal cell phones *en masse* soliciting their services to carriers.

45. The text messages Plaintiff received from Defendants do not reveal their true identities.

46. In order to determine their true identity Plaintiff called the phone numbers that were embedded in the automated text messages. A representative from Defendant Guardian answered each and every one of the phone calls.

47. On September 8, 2022, Plaintiff called 855-598-0250, one of the phone numbers listed in the automated text messages, and was connected to a recording advertising Camp Lejeune stating “If you or a loved one lived, worked, or spent more than 30 days in the Camp Lejeune toxic water and have been diagnosed with cancer or other life-altering medical issues, you could be entitled to compensation. To speak to one of our care representatives press one now.”

48. Plaintiff pressed “one” and was connected to a female representative who identified herself as being from the Guardian Legal Network.

49. The female representative asked Plaintiff qualifying health questions and then transferred Plaintiff to another female representative who also verified Plaintiff’s information. The female representative eventually told Plaintiff “All right from my side that will be all. Thank you very much for verifying that information for me. I’m going to connect you back with the agent you were speaking with so you guys can finish. There’s only one more step, ok, so we can you’re your information to the firm.”

50. The “firm” in paragraph 49 is Defendant Dicello and Defendant Linville.

51. The female telemarketers then sent Plaintiff’s information to the “law firms” as specified in paragraph 49. Defendants Dicello and Linville are the law firms the representatives sent Plaintiff’s information to as a direct and approximate cause of the phone call Plaintiff made to phone number 855-598-0250. Plaintiff was sent a legal retainer/contract listing Defendant Dicello and Defendant Linville as the law firms who would be representing Plaintiff. Exhibit B.

52. None of the text messages Plaintiff received identified the sender of the text message or on whose behalf the text messages were being sent.

53. Plaintiff pretended to be interested in the legal services of the Defendants in order to determine who was behind the text messages.

54. On September 8, 2022, Plaintiff received a docusign contract via email from processing@intakedirect.com. Exhibit C.

55. Table below displays the automated text messages made to Plaintiff by Defendants:

TABLE A:

<u>Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Caller ID</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1.	8/17/2022	11:12 AM	934-201-6149	Link directs to Legal Action Finder; legalactionfinder.com
2.	8/18/22	10:49 AM	716-506-6032	Automated text message. Says to call 855-615-2309
3.	8/18/2022	10:49 AM	774-379-0096	Says to call 855-615-2309
4.	8/20/2022	11:47 AM	303-854-6531	Link directs to Legal Action Finder; legalactionfinder.com
5.	8/24/2022	9:23 AM	443-781-5093	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
6.	9/1/2022	1:34 PM	724-894-4040	Says to call 844-897-8456
7.	9/1/2022	1:34 PM	318-536-2960	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
8.	9/1/2022	1:34 PM	773-829-4801	Link directs to Legal Action Finder; legalactionfinder.com
9.	9/1/2022	1:34 PM	331-244-5194	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.

10.	9/7/2022	7:33 PM	865-895-4023	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
11.	9/8/2022	8:58 PM	978-843-4330	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
12.	9/9/2022	2:12 PM	214-227-9171	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
13.	9/10/2022	7:39 PM	276-218-3572	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
14.	9/11/2022	6:38 PM	580-408-2240	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
15.	9/12/2022	1:59 PM	223-243-3818	Says to call 855-598-0250. Guardian Legal Network answered the phone
16.	9/12/2022	6:01 PM	843-278-2384	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
17.	9/13/2022	8:27 AM	856-328-2784	Automated text message
18.	9/13/2022	10:27 AM	272-879-1065	Says to call 833-498-1230. Guardian Legal Network answered the phone
19.	9/14/2022	10:58 AM	21093	Automated text from Intake Direct
20.	9/14/2022	10:58 AM	21093	Automated text from Intake Direct
21.	9/14/2022	11:00 AM	21093	Automated text from Intake Direct

22.	9/14/2022	11:34 AM	21093	Automated text from Intake Direct
23.	9/15/2022	1:11 PM	413-758-6520	Says to call 888-909-4109. Guardian Legal Network answered the phone
24.	9/15/2022	8:33 PM	607-891-3694	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
25.	9/16/2022	11:00 AM	213-766-9095	Links to consumertortcenter.com
26.	9/16/2022	6:13 PM	704-248-7642	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
27.	9/16/2022	6:47 PM	320-844-4217	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
28.	9/17/2022	4:31 PM	309-668-8290	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
29.	9/18/2022	6:33 PM	662-667-2275	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.
30.	9/19/2022	4:55 PM	774-470-0729	Says to call 877-632-1519. Guardian answered phone.
31.	9/20/2022	2:31 PM	361-603-1466	Links to lejeunelawsuits.com with phone number 800-993-4727. Guardian answered phone.

56. The text messages Plaintiff received from Defendants were placed while knowingly ignoring the national do-not-call registry. The text messages were placed without training their agents/employees on the use of an internal do-not-call policy.

57. Plaintiff sent a request for Defendant Intakes's internal do not call policy on September 21, 2022, to processing@intakedirect.com.

58. Defendant Intake failed and/or refused to send Plaintiff a copy of any internal do not call policy.

59. On information and belief, Defendant Intake did not have a written do-not-call policy while they were sending Plaintiff the text messages.

60. Plaintiff sent a request for Defendant Guardian's internal do not call policy on September 21, 2022, to info@getguardianlegal.com.

61. Defendant Guardian failed and/or refused to send Plaintiff a copy of any internal do not call policy.

62. On information and belief, Defendant Guardian did not have a written do-not-call policy while they were sending Plaintiff the text messages.

63. No emergency necessitated none of the alleged illegal automated text messages.

64. Plaintiff has limited data storage capacity on his cellular telephone. Incoming telemarketing text messages consumed part of this capacity.

INJURY, HARM, DAMAGES, and ACTUAL DAMAGES

AS A RESULT OF THE CALLS

65. Defendants automated text messages harmed Plaintiff by causing the very harm that Congress sought to prevent—a “nuisance and invasion of privacy.”

66. Defendants automated text messages harmed Plaintiff by trespassing upon and interfering with Plaintiff's rights and interests in Plaintiff's cellular telephone.

67. Defendants automated text messages harmed Plaintiff by intruding upon Plaintiff's seclusion.

68. Plaintiff has been harmed, injured, and damaged by the text messages including, but not limited to: reduced device storage, reduced data plan usage, anger, frustration, invasion of privacy, and more frequent charging of his cell phone.

Plaintiff's cell phone is a residential number

69. The text messages were to Plaintiff's cellular phone ending in 1527 which is Plaintiff's personal cell phone that she uses for personal, family, and household use. Plaintiff also uses her cell phone for navigation purposes, sending and receiving emails, timing food when cooking, and sending and receiving text messages. Plaintiff further has her cell phone registered in her personal name, pays the cell phone from her personal accounts, and the phone is not primarily used for any business purpose.

Violations of the Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053

70. The actions of the Defendants violated the Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053 by placing automated text messages to a cell phone which violates 47 USC 227(b). The automated text messages by Defendants violated Texas law by placing automated text messages to a cell phone which violates 47 USC 227(c)(5) and 47 USC 227(d) and 47 USC 227(d)(3) and 47 USC 227(e).

71. The text messages by Defendants violated Texas law by spoofing the caller IDs per 47 USC 227(e) which in turn violates the Texas statute.

VICARIOUS LIABILITY OF DEFENDANTS DICELLO AND LINVILLE

72. Defendants Dicello and Linville authorized Defendant Dicello and Defendant Guardian to make solicitation phone calls on their behalf.

73. Defendants Dicello and Linville are law firms that know they are not allowed to send direct solicitation phone calls and text messages on their own and have outsourced the unethical

process in order to avoid liability.

74. Failure to hold Defendants Dicello and Linville vicarious liable for the unauthorized advertising campaign would be tantamount to encouraging circumventing ethics rules by hiring third-party organizations to commit civil crimes on their behalf.

75. Defendant Dicello and Defendant Linville directed the texts be made by Defendant Guardian and Defendant Intake for the benefit of Defendant.

76. Defendants should be held jointly and severally liable for the text messages at issue in this case.

COUNT ONE:

**Violations of the TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii), by Automated Telemarketing
Without Prior Express Written Consent
(Against All Defendants)**

77. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

78. Defendants and/or their agents placed automated text messages to Plaintiff's cellular telephone.

79. Plaintiff never consented to receive automated text messages from Defendants. Plaintiff has had no relationship with Defendants.

80. Defendants' automated text messages were made for purposes of advertising and marketing their goods and services. These automated text messages constituted commercial advertising and telemarketing as contemplated by the TCPA.

81. The automated text messages were made using an ATDS to the cellular phone of Plaintiff in violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(iii) and (B).

82. As a result of their unlawful conduct, Defendants repeatedly invaded the personal privacy of Plaintiffs, causing Plaintiff to suffer damages and, under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B), entitling

Plaintiff to recover \$500 in statutory damages for each violation and an injunction requiring Defendants to stop their unlawful text message campaigns.

83. Not only did Defendants make these violating automated text messages, but Defendants and/or their agents also did so “knowingly” and/or “willfully” under 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(3)(C).

84. If the Court finds that Defendants willfully or knowingly violated this subsection, the Court may exercise its discretion to increase the amount of the award from \$500 to \$1500 per violation under 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

COUNT TWO:

(Violation of the TCPA “Sales Call/DNC” Prohibition, 47 U.S.C. 227(c), and 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(C))

(Against All Defendants)

85. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

86. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants and/or their affiliates or agents constitute a violation of FCC regulations by making multiple telemarketing solicitations to a consumer on the National Do-Not-Call Registry within a 12-month period in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).

87. Defendants sent automated text messages to Plaintiff’s private residential telephone number which was successfully registered on the National Do-Not-Call Registry more than thirty-one (31) days prior to the automated text messages, in violation of 47 U.S.C § 227(c)(3)(F), and 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(c)(2).

88. Plaintiff was statutorily damaged at least five (5) times under 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F) by Defendants by the automated text messages described above, in the amount of \$500 per automated text message.

89. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of at least \$500 in damages for each such violation.

47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(B).

90. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of up to \$1,500 in damages for each knowing or willful violation of 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(3)(F).

COUNT THREE:

**Telemarketing Without Mandated Safeguards, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)
(Against All Defendants)**

91. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

92. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants and/or their affiliates or agents constitute multiple violations of FCC regulations by making telemarketing solicitations despite lacking the following:

- a. A written policy, available upon demand, for maintaining a do-not-call list, in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(1)²;
- b. Training for the individuals involved in the telemarketing on the existence of and use of a do-not-call list, in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(2)³; and,
- c. In the solicitations, the name of the individual caller and the name of the person or entity on whose behalf the call is being made, in violation of 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)(4).⁴

93. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of at least \$500 in damages for each such violation. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5)(B).

² See *id.* at 425 (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).

³ See *id.* at 425 (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order).

⁴ See *id.* at 425 (codifying a June 26, 2003 FCC order)

94. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of up to \$1,500 in damages for each such knowing or willful violation. 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

COUNT FOUR
Violations of The Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053
(Against All Defendants)

95. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if set forth herein.

96. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendants and/or their affiliates or agents constitute multiple violations of the **Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053**, by making non-emergency telemarketing automated text messages to Plaintiff's cellular telephone number without her prior express written consent in violation of 47 USC 227 et seq. The Defendants violated 47 USC 227(d) and 47 USC 227(d)(3) and 47 USC 227(e) by using an ATDS that does not comply with the technical and procedural standards under this subsection.

97. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of at least \$500 in damages for each such violation.

Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053(b)

98. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of up to \$1,500 in damages for each such knowing or willful violation. **Texas Business and Commerce Code 305.053(c)**

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Crystal Maldonado prays for judgment against the Defendants jointly and severally as follows:

A. Leave to amend this Complaint to name additional DOESs as they are identified and to conform to the evidence presented at trial;

B. A declaration that actions complained of herein by Defendants violate the TCPA and Texas state law;

C. An injunction enjoining Defendant and their affiliates and agents from engaging in the unlawful conduct set forth herein;

D. An award of \$1500 per automated text message in statutory damages arising from the TCPA §227(b) intentional violations jointly and severally against the corporations and individuals for 31 automated text messages.

E. An award of \$1500 per automated text message in statutory damages arising from the TCPA §227(c) intentional violations jointly and severally against the corporations and individuals for 31 automated text messages.

F. An award of \$1,500 in statutory damages arising from violations of the Texas Business and Commerce code 305.053

G. An award of \$5,000 in statutory damages arising from violations of the Texas Business and Commerce code 302.101.

H. An award to Ms. Maldonado of damages, as allowed by law under the TCPA;

I. An award to Ms. Maldonado of interest, costs, and attorneys' fees, as allowed by law and equity

J. Such further relief as the Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

September 26, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



Crystal Maldonado
Plaintiff, Pro Se
8749 Coloma Circle
El Paso, TX 79907
915-305-6342
Crystalmaldonado502@gmail.com

< 18563282784



Add to contacts

Block number

Tuesday, September 13, 2022



COU



RT-NOTIFICATION:
Your \$78,131 Camp
Lejeune Compens-
ation Payment is
approved.

Claim by 9/14:

[attickind.online/v0
x845V0U8GnW8D](http://attickind.online/v0x845V0U8GnW8D)

MMS
8:27 AM

EP22CV0343



< +19788434330



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 8, 2022



V2_They saw
the RECC0RDS
and 9153056342
Came.Up. Check
what U may be
P A I D from
CA_MP_LEJ_EUN
E...Look2V.wows00
nickling.com/c stop
to end

8:58 PM



|



< +12728791065



Add to contacts

Block number

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

It's Anna
(1-833-498-1230)
- We need you to
call in to see your
ToxicWater comp
options. You or
your family looks
like they may have
been effected?
STOPtoSTOP

10:27 AM



< 21093



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Welcome to
DocuSign:
Msg&data rates
may apply. Message
frequency varies.
Reply HELP for help,
STOP to opt-out
anytime.

Intake Direct
from Intake Direct
wants to send
you a DocuSign
envelope: <https://s.docusign.net/1XWhzshOkHuowc0aCSFkWgf>
Select the link to
use DocuSign on
this number



< 21093



10:58 AM

All parties have
completed
"CLJ DGL CFA
June 2022
Org Firm..., ...!"
Download
document from:
<https://s.docusign.net/1i0hsVnZcTkMpo810GTLQt>

11:00 AM

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

All parties have
completed
"CLJ DGL CFA
June 2022
Org Firm..., ...!"
Download
document from:
<https://s.docusign.net/1o0gl0EKAk>



+

|



< 21093



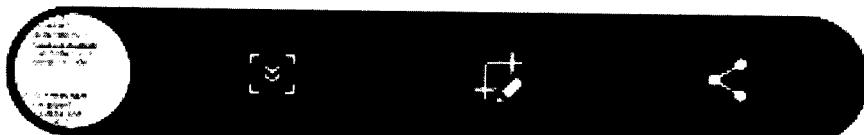
completed
"CLJ DGL CFA
June 2022
Org Firm..., ...!"
Download
document from:
<https://s.docusign.net/1i0hsVnZcTkMpo810GTLQtI>

11:00 AM

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

All parties have
completed
"CLJ DGL CFA
June 2022
Org Firm..., ...!"
Download
document from:
<https://s.docusign.net/1o0gL9EK6k3fX1SpDa36mw5>

11:34 AM



< +18432782384



Add to contacts

Block number

Monday, September 12, 2022

8 Crystal It looks as
ifCAM.P LE.JEU.NE
may be OrderredTo
PA Y Up. Put
9153056342 on
the_List..iAsk7N.lip
s33khedival.com/h
STOP to end

6:01 PM



< +12232433818



Add to contacts

Block number

Monday, September 12, 2022

⑧ We were just
checking if you've
explored all of your
comp options with
the Toxic Water
suit. Can you
give me a ring?
1-855-598-0250
STOP to STOP

1:59 PM



< +15804082240



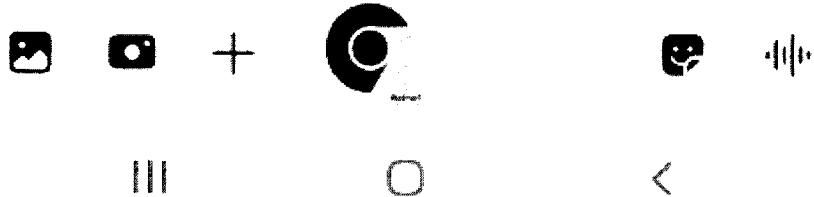
Add to contacts

Block number

Sunday, September 11, 2022

S55...We see the
R E C O R D S
and 9153056342
CameUp. Check
what You might
be O W E D from C
A M P L E J E U N
E...Get5curls75hy
pnotics.com/d stop
to end

6:38 PM



< +12142279171



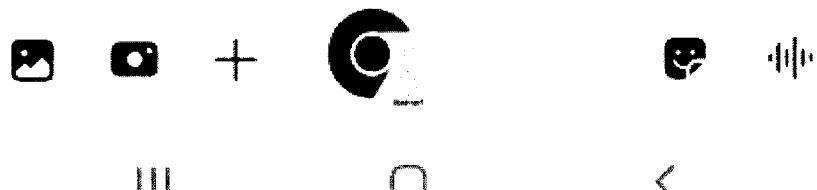
Add to contacts

Block number

Friday, September 9, 2022

U6_I see the
RECC0RDS and
9153056342
Came Up. Check
what U might
be P A I D from
CA_MP_LEJ_EUN
E...Get6U.maas53
truckman.com/c
STOP to end

2:12 PM



< +12762183572



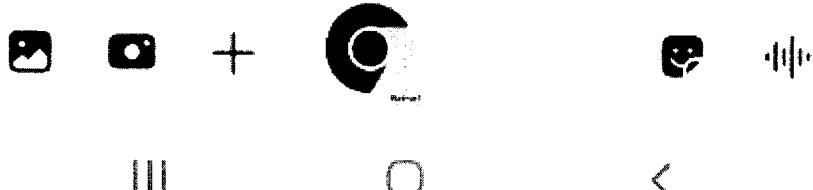
Add to contacts

Block number

Saturday, September 10, 2022

⑧ 099_We see
our R E C O R D S
and 9153056342
CameUp. See
what You might
be Owwed from C
A M P L E J E U N
E...Look90.chalks1c
reams.com/i STOP
to end

7:39 PM



< +19788434330



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 8, 2022



V2_They saw
the RECC0RDS
and 9153056342
Came.Up. Check
what U may be
P A I D from
CA_MP_LEJ_EUN
E...Look2V.wows00
nickling.com/c stop
to end

8:58 PM



+



< +18658954023



Add to contacts

Block number

Wednesday, September 7, 2022



J2_They see our
REC0ORDS and
9153056342
Came_Up. Check
what You might
be P A I D from
C_A_M_P_L_E_J_E_
U_N_E...Make2J.so
ys81quitches.com/
h STOP to end

7:33 PM



< +17248944040



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 1, 2022

Please call
in to discuss
your potential
ToxicWaterPayout
1-844-897-8456 -
"STOP" to STOP

1:34 PM



+



< +14437815093



Add to contacts

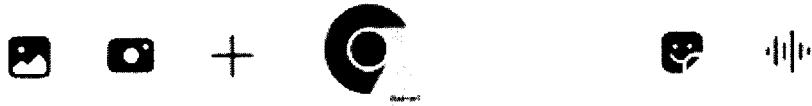
Block number

Wednesday, August 24, 2022



Crystal your
name came up
as a potential
victim from
Camp..Lejeune.
Look what You may
be PAID...hics09valkyrie.com/f STOP to
end

9:23 PM



< +13038546531



Add to contacts

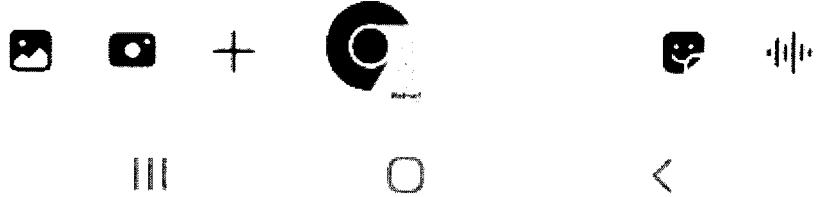
Block number

Saturday, August 20, 2022



Crystal We saw
the reccords and
9153056342 came
up. View how
much You may
be Owwed from
CmpLejeune Law
Suit...jays79postca
va.com/w STOP to
end

11:47 AM



< +17743790096



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, August 18, 2022

ToxicWaterCom
pensationFund
(1-855-615-2309)

- We are now
accepting any
injuries from the
Lejeune CA. STOP
2 STOP

10:49 AM



< +17165066032



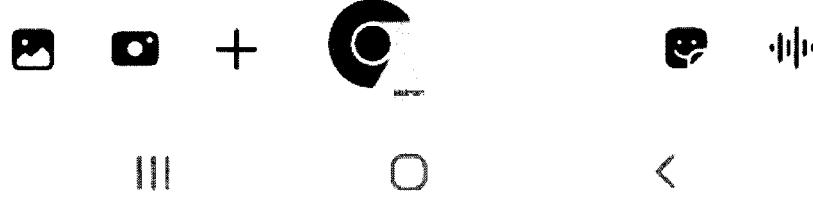
Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, August 18, 2022

ToxicWaterCom
pensationFund
(1-855-615-2309)
- We are now
accepting any
injuries from the
Lejeune CA. STOP
2 STOP

10:49 AM



< +16078913694



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 15, 2022

i03-If 9153056342
is affected They
have No Choice
But to Pay You. See
what You may be
Owed by CAM.P LE
.JEU.NE...nMake30.
puffys7rabids.com/
x STOP to end

8:33 PM



< +14137586520



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 15, 2022



**It's Jeff
(1-888-909-4109)**
- We need you to
call in to see your
ToxicWater comp
options. You or
your family looks
like they may have
been effected?
STOPtoSTOP

1:11 PM



< 21093



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Welcome to
DocuSign:
Msg&data rates
may apply. Message
frequency varies.
Reply HELP for help,
STOP to opt-out
anytime.

Intake Direct
from Intake Direct
wants to send
you a DocuSign
envelope: <https://s.docusign.net/1XWhzshOkHouwc0aCSFkWgf>
Select the link to
use DocuSign on
this number



< 21093



completed
"CLJ DGL CFA
June 2022
Org Firm..., ...!"
Download
document from:
<https://s.docusign.net/1i0hsVnZcTkMpo810GTLQt>

11:00 AM

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

All parties have
completed
"CLJ DGL CFA
June 2022
Org Firm..., ...!"
Download
document from:
<https://s.docusign.net/1o0gL9EK6k3fX1SpDa36mw5>

11:34 AM



< +18595873895



Add to contacts

Block number

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Hey; Can you give me a quick call
and we'll go over the contaminated
water payout? - 1-844-488-3238 -
STOP2STOP

2:51 PM



< +18595873895



Add to contacts

Block number

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Hey; Can you give me a quick call
and we'll go over the contaminated
water payout? - 1-844-488-3238 -
STOP2STOP

2:51 PM



< +17744700729



Add to contacts

Block number

Monday, September 19, 2022



Hey it's Mark - Can you give me
a quick call and we'll go over
the contaminated water payout?
1-877-632-1519 - STOP2STOP

4:55 PM



< +13616031466



Add to contacts

Block number

Tuesday, September 20, 2022



jS44_I see theREC ORD and
9153056342 Came_Up. See what
You might be0W ED from CAM.P
LE.JEU.NE...jAsk4S.younga23glo
vea.com/9153056342/d STOP to
end

2:31 PM



< +16626672275



Add to contacts

Block number

Sunday, September 18, 2022

fE55_I saw our RECORD and
9153056342 Came_Up. View what
You may be OWEDE from CAM.P
LE.JEU.NE...fTake5E.beginnera59
heata.com/9153056342/g STOP to
end

6:33 PM



< +13208444217



Add to contacts

Block number

Friday, September 16, 2022

mY3-If 9153056342 was affected
They have No Choice But to Pay
Up. See what You may be Owed
by CAM.P LE.JEU.NE...eGet3Y.w
aggisha54joina.com/x stop to
end

6:47 PM



< +14137586520



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 15, 2022



It's Jeff (1-888-909-4109) - We
need you to call in to see your
ToxicWater comp options. You or
your family looks like they may
have been effected? STOPtoSTOP

1:11 PM



< +19796124184



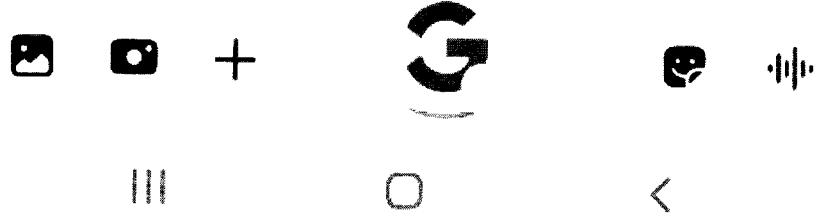
Add to contacts

Block number

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

L6_Our Govt. is handing away
Grants that dont need be P
A I D Back...iSee6L.papers7
2encourages.com/q STOP to
end

4:00 PM



< 21093



Add to contacts

Block number

Thursday, September 8, 2022

Welcome to DocuSign: Msg&data
rates may apply. Message
frequency varies. Reply HELP for
help, STOP to opt-out anytime.

Intake Direct from Intake Direct
wants to send you a DocuSign
envelope: <https://s.docusign.net/1XWhzshOkHuowc0aCSFkWgf>
Select the link to use DocuSign on
this number.

10:58 AM

All parties have completed
"CLJ DGL CFA June 2022 Org
Firm..., ..."! Download document
from: <https://s.docusign.net/1i0hsVnZcTkMpc810GTLQti>

11:00 AM

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

All parties have completed
"CLJ DGL CFA June 2022 Org
Firm..., ..."! Download document
from: <https://s.docusign.net/1oOgL9EK6k3fX1SpDa36mw5>

11:54 AM



< +12728791065



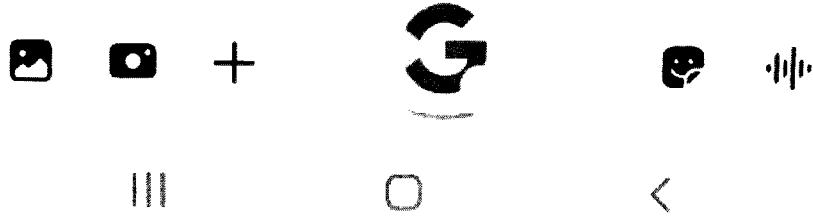
Add to contacts

Block number

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

**It's Anna (1-833-498-1230) - We
need you to call in to see your
ToxicWater comp options. You or
your family looks like they may
have been effected? STOPtoSTOP**

10:27 AM



< 18563282784



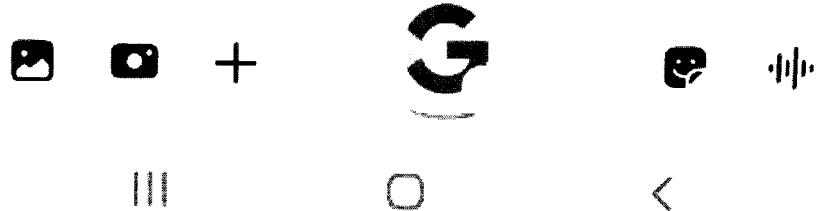
Add to contacts

Block number

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

COURT-NOTIFICATION: Your \$7
8,131 Camp Lejeune Compens-
ation Payment is approved.
Claim by 9/14: [attickind.online/
v0x845V0U8GnW8D](http://attickind.online/v0x845V0U8GnW8D)

MMS
8:27 AM



< +12232433818



Add to contacts

Block number

Monday, September 12, 2022



We were just checking if you've
explored all of your comp options
with the Toxic Water suit. Can you
give me a ring? 1-855-598-0250
STOP to STOP

1:59 PM



+



< +15804082240



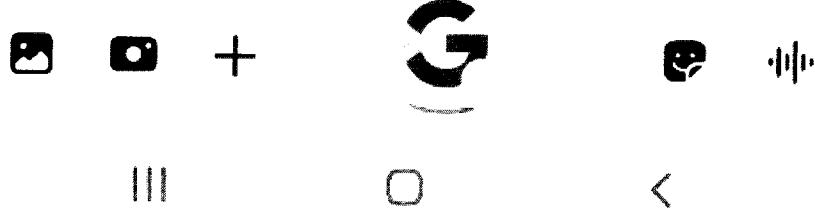
Add to contacts

Block number

Sunday, September 11, 2022

S55...We see the R E C O R D
S and 9153056342 CameUp.
Check what You might be O W
E D from C A M P L E J E U N
E...Get5S.curls75hypnotics.com/d
stop to end

6:38 PM



< +12142279171



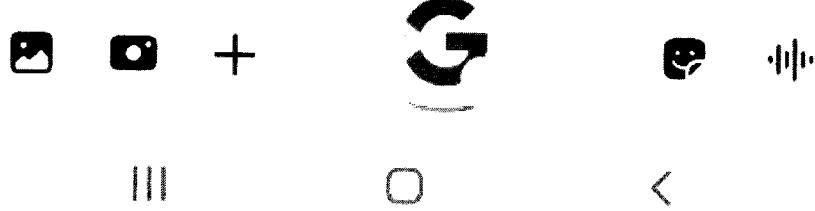
Add to contacts

Block number

Friday, September 9, 2022

U6_I see the RECCORDS and
9153056342 Came.Up. Check
what U might be P A I D from
CA_MP__LEJ_EUNE...Get6U.ma
as53truckman.com/c STOP to
end

2:12 PM



ATTORNEY CONTINGENCY FEE AGREEMENT

This retainer agreement is made between Barbara Rios ("Client") and DiCello Levitt Gutzler LLC and Linville Law Group, (jointly, "the Attorneys"). Client retains and employs the Attorneys to recover compensation for Client's injuries suffered from water contamination at Camp Lejeune. If Client brings a claim relating to or arising from a deceased person's damages or injuries, Client agrees to proceed both individually and as representative of the estate of the deceased person to the extent, Client is legally able to do so. This agreement is intended to bind Client's heirs, death beneficiaries, and Client's estate representative in the event of a death.

- **FREE CASE EVALUATION:** The Attorneys will evaluate Client's claim at no upfront expense or fee.
- **NO FEES OR EXPENSES UNLESS WE RECOVER FOR YOU:** If there is no recovery, Client will not owe the Attorneys anything.
- **SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS:** Client shall have the right to accept or reject any offers for settlement of the cause of action.
- **THE ATTORNEYS WILL NOT SUE CLIENT'S DOCTOR(S)**

CONTINGENT FEES: Client agrees to pay forty percent (40%) of the GROSS settlement or recovery in case of settlement or verdict as a reasonable Attorneys' fee for the Attorneys' services. Client understands that the expenses which have been advanced (as defined below) will be deducted from the portion of proceeds payable to the client after deduction of the Attorneys' fees unless the jurisdiction that the client is in dictates otherwise. These fees apply regardless of whether the case goes to trial or settles before a lawsuit is filed. The Attorneys' fees shall be shared as follows: DiCello Levitt Gutzler LLC shall receive 95.00% while Linville Law Group, 5.00%. **The division of fees between the firms does not affect the Client's share of the recovery.** The Attorneys may employ other attorneys to help with Client's claims at their discretion, but the association of other contingency fee attorneys will not increase the contingency fee owed by Client. The Attorneys shall have discretion to accept or reject any appeal. **If any judgment is rendered pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1346(b), or if any settlement is made pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2677 or 2672, attorneys fees will be capped to the extent required by 28 U.S.C. § 2678.**

EXPENSES: The Attorneys shall advance the court costs and other expenses for this claim, including case specific expenses and a pro rata share of general case expenses. Client agrees and consents to reimburse Attorneys for case specific and general case expenses out of Client's share of the gross amount recovered. Case specific expenses are those incurred for the sole benefit of the Client's individual claim. General case expenses are those incurred in the prosecution of Client's cause of action and other similarly situated clients. Client agrees to pay a pro rata share of such general case expenses in exchange for the benefit of sharing these expenses with other similarly situated clients rather than incurring these expenses individually. These expenses will be disclosed to Client at the time of settlement. Should the Attorneys elect to fund such expenses by borrowing the funds required, Client agrees to reimburse the full sum of all related interest charges for case specific expense costs as well as a pro rata share of related interest charges for general case expenses out of Client's percentage of the gross amount recovered, unless the jurisdiction that the client is in dictates otherwise. Client grants the Attorneys a lien on any proceeds or judgments recovered for Client's claim as security for the payment of the attorneys' fees and expenses to be incurred. **If there are no proceeds recovered on Client's claim, then the Client will not owe the Attorneys for the expenses incurred during the prosecution of this claim.**

STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS: There are legal time limits to prosecute Client's claim, generally Statutes of Limitation or Repose, and if the Claim is not timely prosecuted then the legal right to pursue the claim may be lost forever. The Attorneys require reasonable time to thoroughly investigate Client's legal claims in order to uphold their ethical responsibility, and the Attorneys will not take action on Client's behalf without adequate time for investigation. Client assumes the risks and understands, agrees, and consents that the Attorneys shall not be required to pursue the Client's claims, to file a lawsuit, or to take any action to comply with any Statute of Limitations or Repose, if such limitations period expires within 120 days of the date this signed Agreement is received by the Attorneys. **Prompt return of this Agreement is very important.**

CLIENT'S COOPERATION AND TERMINATION: Client shall keep the Attorneys advised of their current address and telephone number at all times during representation. Failure to advise the Attorneys of this current contact information may result in the dismissal of Client's claim and/or the loss of Client's legal rights forever. Client consents to receive future communications electronically at the Attorneys' discretion, including text messages, client may opt out anytime by providing written notice to the Attorneys. Further, Client agrees that the Attorneys may withdraw from representing Client if the Attorneys deem withdrawal warranted for any reason. If the Attorneys withdraw from representation, they may do so by notifying the Client through electronic communication, or by sending mail to the Client's last known address. **In the event the Attorneys withdraw, the Client will not owe any Attorneys' fees or expenses.** Client agrees to provide complete and truthful information. Client has not and will not retain other counsel regarding this matter. Client agrees not to file any lawsuits, or to negotiate settlement of Client's claims without the Attorneys' knowledge and consent. Client agrees to not share information obtained from the Attorneys. If Client talks to anyone other than Attorneys or their staff, except for Client's spouse, about discussions between Client and Attorney or members of their staff, Client risks the attorney-client privilege and perhaps other privileges. Client agrees to preserve all evidence of Client's claim. Client agrees to notify the Attorneys of any previous bankruptcy filings and prior to any future bankruptcy filing. **Client may terminate this agreement at any time by providing written notice to the attorney.** If an offer has been negotiated, Attorneys will have a lien upon any subsequent recovery equal to 40% of the offer, or an amount to compensate for time and expenses, whichever is greater.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: Client hereby grants Attorneys a limited power of attorney to execute documents necessary to conclude this representation. The Attorneys are authorized and empowered to act as Client's negotiator in any and all settlement negotiations concerning the subject of this agreement. As part of this power of attorney, Client authorizes the Attorneys to require that any settlement checks be made payable jointly to Client and the Attorneys and the Attorneys may reimburse themselves for expenses and fees prior to disbursing money to Client. However, the Attorneys will not unreasonably withhold disbursement from Client.

SETTLEMENT OF HEALTHCARE LIENS: Client understands and acknowledges that prior to the disbursement of any settlement proceeds, the Attorneys may be required to investigate and satisfy any third-party interest healthcare liens such as Medicare, Medicaid, and other medical provider liens.

COMPLETE AGREEMENT: Client hereby acknowledges that the Attorneys have made no guarantees regarding the successful outcome of this matter and all expressions about the outcome are only opinions. This is the entire agreement. Client represents that no one has promised Client anything to induce Client to retain the Attorneys. Client understands and acknowledges that the decision to hire the Attorneys was made willfully and independently without outside influence and no person has solicited Client on behalf of the attorneys. It may be changed only by a writing signed by the Attorneys. If any part is or becomes unenforceable, the rest remains valid and enforceable. The Attorneys' choice to not enforce a provision is not a waiver of the right. All issues regarding this Agreement are governed by the state of Illinois. If Client and the Attorneys cannot resolve a dispute related to this matter, they will mediate it before a mutually agreeable mediator. If mediation does not work, client and attorney agree to remedy through a binding individual arbitration subject to the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

Barbara Rios
Client Signature

Barbara Rios
Printed Name

9/8/2022 | 1:00 PM EDT

Date



Barbara Rios
Print Name of Injured Party

Attorney Signature

Attorney Authorization

To: **Office of the Judge Advocate General
Tort Claims Unit Norfolk
9620 Maryland Avenue, Suite 205
Norfolk, Virginia 23511-2949**

The undersigned hereby grants the law firm below full authority to file an administrative claim arising from his/her exposure at Camp Lejeune. This includes but is not limited to filing an Administrative Form 95.

If the claimant is deceased or is under conservatorship/power of attorney, the undersigned hereby grants the law firm below full authority to take all necessary actions for the purposes of prosecuting any and all claims against the Government under The Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

It is understood that if the undersigned changes residences, addresses and/or contact information, that he/she will notify the law firm below or else all such attorneys or firms shall be absolved from further prosecution of his/her case.

I, Barbara Rios, hereby designate and authorize

Mark DiCello, associated with the law office of

DiCello Levitt Gutzler LLC to represent me and continue any
(Name of Law Firm)

and all claims which have been filed or will be filed arising from:

Exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

(Description of Incident)

Which occurred on between 8/1/1953 and 12/31/1987.

(Date of Incident)

Executed on 9/8/2022 | 1:00 PM EDT

Barbara Rios

Signature of Claimant

1 A Form 95 is used to present claims against the United States for property damage, personal injury, or death.

2 If you meet the requirements to file a claim under The Camp Lejeune Justice Act, then you may also be qualified to file a claim in the United States District Court.

HIPAA AUTHORIZATION FOR THE USE AND DISCLOSURE OF HEALTH INFORMATION

TO: _____

Patient's Full Legal Name: Barbara Rios

Date of Birth: _____ S.S.# XXX-XX-

Address: _____

NOTE: "You" refers to the person(s) to whom this Authorization is directed. "I," "Me," or "My" refers to the patient identified above. Pursuant to HIPAA Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information, 45 C.F.R. §§164.512 & 164.508 ("HIPAA"), You are hereby authorized and directed to disclose the following oral, written, or electronic protected health care information related to Me to the law firm of _____ for purposes of investigation and litigation:

All health information (meaning EVERY document or item in my record) maintained by You

All health information relating to the following treatment or condition:

All Health information for the date(s):

All Billing information for the date(s):

All photographs and videos depicting My Injuries

I understand that the information in my health record may include information relating to sexually transmitted disease, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), behavioral or mental health services, and/or treatment for alcohol and/or drug abuse. I authorize the release of such information, with the following exceptions:

Federal and state laws protect the information disclosed pursuant to this Authorization. I understand that if the authorized recipient of the information is not a health care provider or health plan covered by federal privacy regulations, the information may be re-disclosed and no longer protected. However, the recipient may be prohibited from disclosing any substance abuse information under federal confidentiality requirements for alcohol and drug abuse patient records and the Public Health Service Act. Such information may not be used to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug patient. Further, pursuant to O.C.G.A § 24- 9-47, state law prohibits a recipient from making any further disclosure of test results relating to HIV or AIDS without the specific written consent of the person to whom such information pertains. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for such purpose.

Please be advised that HIPAA §164.512(e) prohibits ex parte communications between counsel for defendant and the patient's (plaintiff's) health care provider, unless expressly agreed to by the patient in a separate release. I do not authorize my health care provider to communicate with counsel for defendant through this release.

I understand that I have the right to revoke this Authorization at any time, and in order to do so, I must present a written revocation to you. I understand that the revocation will not apply to information that already has been released in response to or in reliance upon this Authorization. I understand that I need not sign this Authorization in order to ensure health care treatment, payment, enrollment in my health plan, or eligibility for benefits. I understand that if this authorization is sought by a covered entity I will be given a copy of this Authorization form, after signing it. Unless revoked, this authorization will automatically expire one (1) year from the date of signature.

I further understand that the information disclosed pursuant to this Authorization may be subject to re-disclosure and no longer protected by the privacy regulations promulgated pursuant to HIPAA. I agree that a photocopy of this authorization will bear the same authority as the original.

Signature of Patient/Authorized Representative (if authorized representative, include relationship or nature of authority)

Barbara Rios

Signature of Patient or Legal Representative

_____ Date

If Signed by Legal Representative, Relationship to Patient

Request Letter under HITECH Act of 2009 for Electronic Copy of my Medical Records

To: Medical Care Provider: _____

From: Patient Name: Barbara Rios _____

Patient DOB: _____ Patient SSN: XXX-XX-_____

Pursuant to 45 CFR § 164.524, I am requesting that you send an electronic copy, in PDF form at, of all of my protected Health information ("PHI") from _____ to _____ to my Third-party designee(s). _____
I do not want a PHI summary but the full set of records.

Please scan paper records and/or convert electronic records to PDF format and email them to _____
If you are unable to email my PHI, you may save in PDF format to a thumb drive and mail the same to:

Phone _____
Fax _____

_____ should receive any and all correspondence, including invoices for the reasonable cost-based fee for the labor cost of copying my protected health information, paper or electronic media supply costs, and postage costs. The applicable regulations provide the following rules for compliance with this request:

1. There is a 30-day deadline to supply the requested PHI.
2. There is no requirement under the HITECH Act for a HIPAA authorization. This letter is sufficient.
3. There is no expiration event or date relating to this patient or the purpose of the use or disclosure of this information.
4. Prohibited charges include access charges, inventory charges, labor for reviewing the request, searching for or retrieving the PHI.
5. Medical records contractors are covered by HIPAA regulations.
6. Noncompliance includes charging more for sending the records to my third-party designee, Consumer Attorney Record Services, or any subsequent or additional third-party designee.
7. Noncompliance includes claiming the inability to provide the PHI via email or mail.
8. I have the right to revoke this authorization in writing.
9. You may not condition treatment, payment, enrollment, or eligibility for benefits on whether I sign this authorization when the prohibition on conditioning of authorizations in (b)(4) of 45 CFR § 164.508 applies.
10. There is a potential for information disclosed pursuant to this authorization to be subject to re-disclosure by _____ and will no longer be protected by this 45 CFR §164.508.

This copy is as valid as the original. Thank you for your prompt response.

Barbara Rios

Signature of Patient or Legal Representative

Date (Signature is valid for 365 days)

If Signed by Legal Representative, Relationship to Patient

For more information on the Federal HITECH Act and its regulations: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/guidance/access/>



Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: CB03308627234FFA8A2C9D07561E4763

Status: Completed

Subject: Please sign document

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 4

Signatures: 4

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 1

Initials: 0

Intake Direct

AutoNav: Enabled

317 EISENHOWER DR

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1-9153056342

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Status

Timestamps

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Security Checked

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